

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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EO 11652: NA
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SUBJ: ANDES

REF: STATE 194182

1. REFTEL REQUESTED INFORMATION ON ANDES 21DE JUNIO (ASOCIACION NACIONAL DE EDUCADORES SALVADORENOS) TO ANSWER REQUEST FOR INFORMATION FROM MEMBER OF FRASER SUBCOMMITTEE. UNFORTUNATELY, LITTLE SOLID INFORMATION AVAILABLE IN EMBASSY FILES ON THIS ORGANIZATION. FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY OF WHAT WE HAVE. DEPARTMENT SHOULD JUDGE WHETHER OR WHAT PART OF FOLLOWING CAN BE CONSIDERED UNCLASSIFIED FOR TRANSMISSION TO CONGRESS. SENSITIVE PARTS MAY BE REFERENCES TO GOES IN PARAS. 3 AND 4.

2. ANDES 21 JE JUNIO WAS FOUNDED IN DECEMBER , 1965 AS AMALGAMATION OF A NUMBER OF SEPARATE SALVADORAN TEACHERS' GROUPS. "21 OF JUNE" IS THE DATE OF A LARGE DEMONSTRATION WHICH TOOK PLACE IN 1965 AGAINST A PROPOSED RETIREMENT LAW WHICH WOULD HAVE ADVERSELY AFFECTED THE INTERESTS OF PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS. SINCE ITS FOUNDATION, ANDES HAS FUNCTIONED ESSENTIALLY AS A LABOR ORGANIZATION REPRESENTING THE INTERESTS OF SALVADORAN ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHERS ALONG WITH SOME UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS. SINCE MOST SALVADORAN TEACHERS ARE

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EMPLOYEES OF THE STATE, THIS ROLE HAS PUT ANDES IN A SITUATION OF CONFLICT WITH THE GOES. JUDGING FROM THE INFORMATION IN EMBASSY FILES, ANDES HAS GENERALLY CONCENTRATED ON BREAD AND BUTTER ISSUES IN ITS DEALINGS WITH THE GOES. HOWEVER HY IT HAS OYALLIED ITSELF WITH A GROUP OF EXTREME LEFTIST STUDENT AND CAMPESINO ORGANIZATIONS IN THE BPR (BLOQUE POPULAR REVOLUCIONARIO) AND SHARES IN THE BPR'S SOCIALIST, ANTI-REGIME RHETORIC.

ANDES' ALLIANCE WITH THE SALVADORAN EXTREME LEFT WAS APPARENTLY CEMENTED DURING A BITTER TEACHERS' STRIKE WHICH TOOK PLACE DURING THE SUMMER OF 1971 OVER THE ISSUE, ONCE AGAIN, OF A PROPOSED RETIREMENT LAW.

3. ANDES ALLIANCE WITH THE EXTREME LEFT AND MILITANCE OF ITS LEADERSHIP HAS MADE IT ONE OF THE BETES NOIRES OF SALVADORAN CONSERVATIVES. IN ITS REPORTING ON THE 1971 STRIKE, THE EMBASSY INTERPRETED THIS ALLIANCE AS TACTICAL, WITH ANDES SEEKING SUPPORT IN ITS STRUGGLE AGAINST THE GOES AND WITH LEFTIST GROUPS SEIZING UPON THE TEACHERS' PROBLEMS AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO ATTACK THE REGIME. IN THE ABSENCE OF SPECIFIC BIO INFORMATION ON ANDES LEADERSHIP, WE ARE NOT IN A POSITION NOW TO JUDGE WHETHER THIS ALLIANCE IS INDEED LARGELY TACTICAL OR WHETHER IT REFLECTS IDEOLOGICAL CONVICTIONS OF ANDES LEADERS. THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF ANDES, MELIDA ANAYA MONTES, HAS BEEN DESCRIBED AS A "COMMUNIST SYMPATHIZER", BUT ANY OPPONENT OF THE GOES IS OPEN TO THIS CHARGE. NO INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE ON OTHER ANDES LEADERS.

4. IN THE CLOSING MONTHS OF THE MOLINA ADMINISTRATION, MANY ANDES ACTIVISTS WERE VICTIMS OF THE REPRESSION WHICH FOLLOWED THE POST-ELECTION DISTURBANCES. ON FEBRUARY 28 ANDES HEAD-QUARTERS WERE RANSACKED AND THE SECRETARY GENERAL, MELIDA ANAYA MONTES, WAS ARRESTED, BUT RELEASED SHORTLY THEREAFTER. THIS

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ACTION PROVOKED A LETTER OF CONCERN TO THE GOES FROM THE UNITED AUTOMOBILE WORKERS LEADERSHIP. A NUMBER OF OTHER ANDES ACTIVISTS WERE ARRESTED AROUND THAT TIME AND SOME ARE REPORTEDLY STILL MISSING. ONE OF THE FIRST ACTIONS OF THE NEW MINISTER OF EDUCATION UNDER THE ROMERO GOVERNMENT WAS TO HOLD A HIGHLY PUBLICIZED MEETING WITH ANDES LEADERS, INDICATING A POSSIBLE DESIRE ON THE PART OF THE GOES TO WOO ANDES AWAY FROM ITS ALLIANCE WITH LEFTIST GROUPS.

5. A GENERAL REPORT ON THE EXTREME LEFTIST GROUPS, INCLUDING THE "BLOQUE POPULAR REVOLUCIONARIO" WILL BE FORWARDED SOON.

6. DRAFTER: ECON,US. WINSTANLEY.
CLEARANCE: CHARGE; POL, H. MC
WHELL; DATT, IETC G.
WALKER; USIS/CAO; J JOHNSON.
LUBENSKY

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